

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2214

ROME FOR ILLING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: BISHOPS' VIEWS ON COMMUNIST AND OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES

REF: LISBON 2136

SUMMARY: PRESS ARTICLES APRIL 15 AND 16 REPORTED ON CONCERN OF BISHOP OF OPORTO REGARDING PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND POSITION OF ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA THAT ONLY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COALITION PARTIES (CDS/PDC) HOLD VIEWS FULLY IN HARMONY WITH TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH. ALTHOUGH PRESS ARTICLES MAY CAUSE PRELATES SOME EMBARRASSMENT, DISCOMFORT FACTOR IS BOUND TO BE GREATER FOR LEFT AND CENTER LEFT. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 16 ISSUE OF MORNING OPORTO NEWSPAPER "JORNAL DE NOTICIAS" CARRIED FRANCE PRESSE ITEM REPORTING ON "INTERVIEW"

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WITH OPORTO BISHOP ANTONIO FERREIRA GOMES IN

"IL GIORNO" OF MILAN. INTERVIEW REFERS TO BISHOP'S "CONCERN" ABOUT PCP'S TRUE AIMS, AND ABOUT DIFFICULTY IN PINNING DOWN COMMUNISTS REGARDING CONCRETE FACTS ABOUT BUDAPEST 1956 AND PRAGUE 1968. BISHOP ALSO SPOKE OF PCP SECRETARY-GENERAL CUNHAL'S POST-APRIL 25 VISIT TO HIM, WONDERING OUT LOUD WHY CUNHAL DIDN'T BOTHER TO EXTEND HIM SUPPORT (AS DID OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS) DURING BISHOP'S TEN-YEAR EXILE UNDER SALAZAR.

2. SAME ISSUE OF "JORNAL DE NOTICIAS" CARRIED CAREFULLY QUALIFIED DENIAL OF "IL GIORNO" ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AMCONSUL OPORTO, ITALIAN NEWSPAPER'S ACCOUNT OF WHAT BISHOP SAID IS TRUE. BISHOP'S REMARKS WERE MADE DURING OFF-THE-RECORD CONVERSATION WITH SEVERAL NEWSMEN AND WERE NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION IN THIS FORM.

3. LISBON EVENING PAPER "DIARIO POPULAR" CARRIED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF BISHOP'S STATEMENTS, BASED ON REUTER DISPATCH ON ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN ROME NEWSPAPER "IL POPOLO." (FOR ROME AND MILAN: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE BY POUCH, IF AVAILABLE.)

4. APRIL 15 ISSUE OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LISBON DAILY "DIARIO DE LISBOA" CARRIED INDIGNANT ACCOUNT ON FRONT PAGE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ARCH-CONSERVATIVE ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA IN DIOCESE'S NEWSPAPER. ARCHBISHOP REVIEWED PROGRAMS AND IDEOLOGIES OF PCP, SOCIALISTS (PS), PARTIDO POPULAR DEMOCRATICO (PPD), AND CDS/PDC COALITION. CITING STATEMENTS OF POPE PIUS XI AND THE PORTUGUESE BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER OF LAST JULY, HE DISMISSED PCP "AND OTHER PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTIES" (REFERRING TO GROUPS ON FAR LEFT) AS NOT BEING IN ACCORD WITH DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH. ARCHBISHOP ALSO SEVERELY CRITICIZED PS FOR ITS IDENTIFY OF VIEW WITH COMMUNISTS REGARDING ULTIMATE END OF ESTABLISHING A SOCIALIST PARTY. AS FOR PPD, ARCHBISHOP CRITICIZED ITS ADVOCACY OF DIVORCE AND FAMILY PLANNING AS WELL AS ITS PROFESSED END AIM OF CREATING SOCIALIST SOCIETY. ONLY CDS AND PDC PROGRAMS, IN ARCHBISHOP'S VIEW, DO NOT CONTRADICT TEACHING OF THE CHURCH. DIARIO DE LISBOA ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY ATTACKING ARCHBISHOP'S REACTIONARY POSITION AS "PROVOCATION," PARTICULARLY SERIOUS SINCE IT IS BOUND TO AFFECT A POPULATION LEVEL "PREDOMINATELY DEPOLITICIZED AND IN WHICH THE

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CLERGY HAS GREAT INFLUENCE."

5. COMMENT: WITHIN LIMITS, BOTH THE CHURCH AND PCP HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING SAME POLICY OF DISCRETION AND RESTRAINT IN PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF ATTITUDES FELT BY ONE TOWARD THE OTHER. AS AN INSTITUTION, PORTUGUESE CHURCH HAS REFRAINED FROM CONDEMNING PCP OUTRIGHT, LIMITING ITSELF TO CONDEMNATIONS OF IDEOLOGIES IT DEEMS HOSTILE OR INCOMPATIBLE WITH CATHOLIC FAITH AND REFRAINING

FROM NAMING NAMES. (REFTEL).

ON OFFICIAL LEVEL PCP HAS BEEN CORRECT. WHILE PCP WILL REFER TO PORTUGUESE CHURCH'S PASSIVITY BEFORE SALAZAR-CAETANO DICTATORSHIP, AT SAME TIME IS USUALLY ALSO MENTIONS PARTICIPATION AND MARTYRDOM OF DEVOTED CATHOLICS IN ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLE. IT HAS MADE POINT DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN OF REFUTING CHARGES THAT IT IS "ANTI-CHURCH," GOING OUT OF THE WAY TO EMPHASIZE THAT MANY OF ITS MEMBERS (AND CANDIDATES) ARE PRACTICING CATHOLICS. ON SUB-OFFICIAL LEVEL, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT WHERE PCP REALLY STANDS. COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS HAS CARRIED NUMEROUS ARTICLES REFERRING TO "REACTIONARY" CLERGY, AND CARTOON TREATMENT OF HIERARCHY HAS INCLUDED VICIOUS CARACATURES OF BLOATED PRIESTS CONSORTING WITH BLOATED CAPITALISTS.

6. OPORTO BISHOP'S INDISCRETION IN SPEAKING FRANKLY BEFORE JOURNALISTS UNDOUBTEDLY IS CAUSING HIM DISCOMFORT. HOWEVER, SINCE HIS UNASSAILABLE, ANTI-FASCIST PAST GIVE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AUTOMATIC ENTREE AMONG FORCES ON PORTUGAL'S POLITICAL LEFT, IT IS PCP THAT WILL BE MOST DISCOMFITTED BY INTERVIEW ARTICLE. ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA, ON OTHER HAND, HAS REPUTATION OF HAVING FAITHFULLY SUPPORTED OLD REGIME, BUT HIS VIEWS WILL NEVERTHELESS DIVERT SOME VOTES AMONG DIOCESE'S POPULATION FROM SOCIALISTS AND PPD TO CDS.  
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